

12
A
DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A

BANKER

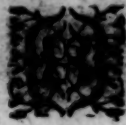
AND A

MERCHANT

OF THE

City of *DUBLIN*.

K



DUBLIN:

Printed in the Year MDCCCLIV.

DIAFOGUE

BAIKER

MERCHANT



CITY OF DUBLIN

DUBLIN

Printed in the City of Dublin

A
DIALOGUE

BETWEEN A

Banker and a Merchant

OF THE

City of DUBLIN.

Merchant.
HOW did it happen, that you were not one in the Procession on last *Friday*?

Banker. Because I neither approved of the *Occasion*, or of the CONDUCTORS.

Merch. Your Reasons seem to contradict your own Act; for I am much mistaken, if I did not see your Name to the ROLL.

Bank. I believe you did see my Name; and the Names of several other Persons, who knew as little of the Matter as I did; whose Names were forged, to give Weight to that which, I think, contains a heavy Reflection upon the Credit of the Kingdom, and the Traders thereof, especially upon those, who are the Keepers of the *surplus* Cash of the Wealthy.

Merch. You surprize me exceedingly with what you now say; for your Name was one of the most prevalent Arguments with me, to set mine to that Address. But had I known that such a Trick was put upon the Publick, I should have expressed my Detestation at least of the Contrivers thereof.

Bank.

Bank. Had you but considered a little, you would have found sufficient Reasons upon the Face of the Thing, to have convinced you, that the *good* Names (and there are not very many of that Sort, to speak in the Language of a Trader) must have been surprized into the Act. For then you would have observed, that the *Signature* of some COMPANIES was first in gross, and afterwards you would have found those same COMPANIES split into INDIVIDUALS, to fill up a *long Roll*: You would have noted sundry Names unknown to Traders; and other Names of Persons, no way concerned in Trade, but as Relations to certain Grocers, Drapers, &c. employ'd by great Personages. But that, which should have alarm'd you most, was, that the Names of the most EMINENT BANKERS and most SIGNIFICANT MERCHANTS, were not to be found in the *Roll*. I need not name them; you know them all. If the *Credit* of the Nation was really at Stake, and had received that *effectual* Relief, which was pretended; think you not, that those *very considerable* Persons had as early and as strong a Sense thereof, as *Chandlers*, or *Joiners*, &c.?

Merch. Indeed, you have alarm'd me much; for I now recollect the Industry with which our GENERALS solicited this Affair, and I begin to dread, that the Publick was not so much considered in the Matter, as I heretofore thought. But though their Motives were not as disinterested as they should have been, hath not the Publick yet received great Benefit by a late *Interposition* in behalf of the *national Credit*?

Bank. Do you mean, by the Direction that was supposed to be given to the Treasury?

Merch. Yes: That is my Meaning.

Bank. Then I will give you a categorical Answer, and say, that, in my Opinion, it hath not received any; because the *Direction*, whatever it may

may be, hath not made any Alteration in the usual Course of the Treasury. *F——r*, indeed, hath taken upon him to say, “ That Orders were “ given at the Treasury, and other publick Offices, to give ready Money for Bankers Notes.” But this must be one of his usual Puffs. It is absurd to imagine, that such an Order could be given, that could not be legally obey’d, but at the Risque of the Treasury-Officers, who give great Security to the *Vice-Treasurers* their Employers. These Officers have long taken the Notes of Bankers in Payment, and have thereby enlarged the Capital of Trade, to the great and sensible Advantage of the Nation. But without cancelling their Bonds, and discharging their Sureties, no Power, but the Parliament, which can indemnify them from a Loss, can compel them to accept of Notes for Money: Much less can any other Power warrant their exchanging *certain* Revenue for *uncertain* Paper. So that those boasted *Bonfires*, *Illuminations*, and *Ringings of Bells* were, probably, as imaginary, as some others formerly related by the same Author, to have been for a *Birth-Day*, which no mortal in the City, except one *Native of Scotland*, knew any thing of.

Merch. I suspect, from what you have said, that you did not see a Letter, which was sent from the *S——’s* Office to one of the Banks of this City, which seems to overthrow your Assertions: Indeed, neither the Letter, nor the Address, directly point out the particular Manner, in which public Credit was to be supported; but the Letter plainly indicates the Exercise of some Power for that Purpose.

Bank. I have seen a Letter of the Sort you mention, and have read it over and over carefully, and cannot find therein any Cause to alter my Opinion. The Letter-Writer seems very diligently to have avoided

avoided entering into any Particulars; he but generally sets forth, " That he was ordered to speak to Mr. G——r and Mr. C——s, to support the Credit of the Bankers, and that they might depend upon being effectually supported; and that, if they had Occasion for any immediate Assistance, they might apply to Mr. C——s, and they would find him ready to do whatever might be conducive to the maintaining of publick Credit."

This was all very good and kind; but in Truth there seemed not to be any very pressing Necessity for it: For Mr. G——r and Mr. C——s have been ever zealous to promote publick Credit, and have thereby done infinite Service to their Country, and deserve all the Thanks grateful People can give them; because, in Truth, they have done this at their own Hazard.

But still this general Letter doth not warrant F——'s Tale, which is manifestly set forth as the Foundation of the Address; nor, indeed, can it be presumed, that any such Thing was intended; because such an Order is certainly not in the Power of a chief G——r, who hath, by Law, but such Authority over the Revenue, as is committed to him by the Establishment, wherein there are expressly three thousand Pounds *per Annum*, for military Contingencies, made subject to his Warrant, and no more. How then can it be thought, that he would order the Money in the Treasury to be delivered out for Banker's Notes? It is absurd, and an Imposition of that News-Writer, and will contribute to place our Constitution in a ridiculous Light, wheresoever the *Dublin Journal* travels.

Merch. Your Doctrine is new; we were taught by our GENERALS, that the Treasury was, at all Times, under the Direction of the chief Governor.

Bank.

Bank. The Treasury is, as all other Things are, subject to Law; and I know no Law, that gives a chief G——r a Power of changing the public Treasure into Notes, nor do I think any G——r ever did, or ever will attempt so to do.

Merch. But do you not think, that the Letter I have mentioned, was attended by some Consequences advantageous to the Kingdom?

Bank. It is certainly of Importance, that the Publick should observe, that Power is watchful over the Affairs of a Nation, subsisting by its Trade and its Credit. However, I cannot think this Country was lately in so great Danger, as to need any extraordinary Remedy. One Bank of no visible Security broke; I cannot have so mean an Opinion of my Countrymen, as to suppose, that they would, therefore, suspect all other Banks, of visible and undoubted Strength, and draw their Money out of them, to burthen themselves with the keeping thereof. There was an Appearance of a Run upon one Bank; but this was owing to its small Notes, the Property of Persons of low Degree, who crowded the Shop, though their Demands were trifling: But this Bank was no more suspected by Persons of Judgment and Affluence, than any other; and, therefore, was not disturbed by them. But whatever was the Danger, I cannot think that Letter of so great Account, as to be called, the EFFECTUAL INTERPOSITION, in behalf of the publick Credit of the Kingdom. The EFFECTUAL INTERPOSITION, I look upon to be the Association of the Nobility, Gentry, Merchants, and Traders now in this Capital, who are the Bankers Creditors, and who, indeed, if they were wickedly disposed, might bring Destruction upon themselves and the Bankers, at one and the same Time. This appears to be the Sense of the first Bankers and Merchants of the City, who would
not

not weaken their Credit, by greedily catching at an Opportunity, in the Face of the World, of returning Thanks for being preserved from an impending Ruin, which they were not conscious they were in Danger from. This, they saw, would amount to a publick Declaration, that a Bank could not subsist, without the Aid of the Treasury, which would not be proper for the People to believe, nor for the Treasury even to hint. It is the Business of every good Subject to wish, it is the Interest of the Government to promote, that the Treasury may depend upon Trade, and that Trade never may be in the Power of the Treasury. These Reasons operate so powerfully upon me, that, could I plainly discover the Man who counterfeited my Name in that Roll, I would take the most likely Steps to procure a Recompence, for the Damage which I may incur abroad, amongst Strangers, who will probably esteem my Credit to be very precarious, if it may, at any time, depend upon the *effectual Interposition* of a chief G——r.

Merch. You have convinced me, that I have done a Thing that may prejudice, but cannot advance Credit : I can now see clearly into the Purposes of those who projected this Procedure at this *critical* Season ; and I can, without much Cunning, discover, that many well-designing Persons have, with me, been made Dupes of the Ambition and Intrigues of other Persons. I do, therefore, firmly resolve to be hereafter more wary, and more exact in observing the MANNERS of my LEADERS, before I concur in their MEASURES.



F I N I S.

